

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Osafumi NAKAYAMA, et al.

Serial No. 10/722,586

Group Art Unit: 2622

Confirmation No. 5657

Filed: November 28, 2003

Examiner: Richard M. Bemben

For: PICTURE INPUTTING APPARATUS

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Applicants submit the following summary of the telephone interviews that took place March 6 and 11, 2009 between the undersigned representative of the Applicants and the Examiner.

Telephone Conference:

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the many courtesies extended to the undersigned representative of the Applicants during the telephone interviews that took place March 6 and 11, 2009.

Among the issues discussed during that interview was placing the application in condition for allowance by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 11 and 12 into claim 1, and add the phrase "along parallel paths" at the end of the amended claim 1. An example of claim 1 amended according to our understanding of the discussion is set forth below.

Amended claim 1:

1. (currently amended) A picture inputting apparatus comprising:

a solid state image pickup device having a high-resolution pixel array consisting of a plurality of photo-receptive elements disposed at a high density for converting a formed image into a pixel value of an electric signal by photoelectric conversion;

a low-resolution whole picture scanning unit which outputs low-resolution whole picture data by reading out and scanning the wholeness of an imaging range with the pixel array resolution lowered;

a high-resolution partial picture scanning unit which outputs high-resolution partial picture data by partially reading out and scanning the imaging range with the pixel array high-resolution kept;

a switching unit which provides a switching between the low-resolution whole picture scanning unit and the high-resolution partial picture scanning unit within a predetermined frame period of picture signals to thereby output in sequence the low-resolution whole picture data and the high-resolution partial image data at a speed equal to or greater than the video rate; and

an image processing unit which automatically determines the extracting position of the high-resolution partial picture at the next frame, based on the low-resolution whole picture data output from the low-resolution whole picture scanning unit, to thereby instruct the high-resolution partial picture scanning unit on the extracting position;

a picture transmission unit which converts into analog picture signals low-resolution whole picture data output from the low-resolution whole picture scanning unit and high-resolution partial picture data output from the high-resolution partial picture scanning unit, to transmit the obtained analog picture signals to an external image processor via a transmission path; wherein

the picture transmission unit converts the low-resolution whole picture data and the high-resolution partial picture data into analog picture signals, respectively, for parallel transmission along parallel paths.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: March 11, 2009

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